

Stellas and sleepers, branches and bucks: A quiz for collectors

By Roger Boye

HERE'S A CHANCE to find out how much you know about coins and collecting. As usual, the answers to the quiz appear at the end of the column.

1. When did coin collecting begin? (A) In ancient Greece and Rome, (B) during the Crusades in the Middle Ages, (C) in 17th-Century America, or (D) with the invention of the Whitman coin folder in the 1930s.

2. What event made coin collecting a popular hobby in this country? (A) Production of commemorative coins during the 1920s and 1930s, (B) publication of easy-to-use price guidebooks in the 1940s, (C) invention of the coin board and coin folder in the 1930s, which simplified storage of a collection, or (D) all of these.

3. True or false: The dollar became this country's monetary unit based on a money system used in England.

4. What were the first two types of coins produced for circulation by the United States Mint in Philadelphia?

5. True or false: The Confederate States made thousands of coins during the Civil War.

6. What does the word "stella" mean to a coin collector? (A) A coin in top-notch condition, (B) a stolen

coin, (C) an Indian-head penny minted from 1859 to 1909, or (D) a \$4 gold piece minted in 1879 and 1880.

7. Why did the federal government operate a branch mint in Carson City, Nev., from 1870 to 1893?

8. True or false: The U.S. Mint produced a special half-dollar in 1918 to commemorate Illinois' centennial.

9. "Sleeper" is a common term for (A) a low-mintage coin, (B) an under-priced rare coin, or (C) buried silver.

Answers:

1. A. The Greeks invented coinage several centuries before Christ, and archeologists believe that both the ancient Greeks and Romans collected coins as art objects.

2. D.

3. False. The Spanish milled dollar circulated throughout the Colonies and was the forerunner of the U.S. dollar and its fractional divisions.

4. The half-cent and cent, in 1793.

5. False. They printed millions of dollars in paper money, but minted only a few coins.

6. D.

7. Huge silver mines were nearby.

8. True; about 100,000 pieces were minted. Today, uncirculated specimens retail for \$75.

9. B.